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requested that the present class of men might be replaced by competent conveyancers.

Dewan's reply.—Government are not in a position to do anything in this matter.

24. *Police reform.*

Mr. R. Parameswaren Pillai (Member, Shertallai Taluk) spoke on the necessity for re-organizing the Police department and referred to the suffering the people were being put to by the absence of timely reforms and by the non-appointment of proper and capable officers, to the absence of qualifications for the appointment of constables, the appointment of illiterate constables as Station-House officers, the increasing number of cognizable offences and of departmental punishments, the indiscriminate arrests made by Policemen and to the perfunctoriness of the supervision exercised by the Assistant Superintendents. He said that by doing away with useless officers, the amount now being spent on the department would be sufficient to introduce the necessary changes and suggested the following reforms :— (*a*) that charge of stations should be given only to Sub-Inspectors as in Cochin and British Malabar; (*b*) that the number of Inspectors should be reduced, one Inspector being appointed to two or three Taluks; (*c*) that prompt enquiry into offences should be enforced; (*d*) that a small educational qualification should be prescribed for constables; (*e*) that only such as are of good conduct and belonged to respectable families should be appointed as officers; (*f*) that a Police Training School be opened as in Mysore; (*g*) that separate Prosecuting Inspectors be appointed; and (*h*) that rules should be passed for the proper discharge of work by all officers of the department.

Dewan's reply.—I have heard with great interest all that the member has stated about the condition of the Police department. The subject is rather a wide one and cannot be dealt with in the answer to a single question. The necessity for the early revision of the department will be borne in mind.

25. *Canals and Ferries Bill.*

Mr. N. Madhavan Valiathan (Member, Tiruvella Taluk) said that the Canals and Ferries Bill introduced into the Legislative Council was not necessary in the interests of the public. It would be detrimental to the development of agriculture and trade. In view to the fact that this country is honey-combed with rivers and canals which the people have to cross and re-cross almost every day, to levy even a small toll at every ferry would be to trench on the means of livelihood of the natives and interfere with the travelling con-

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venience of the foreigners visiting the country. A great number of people lived by running canoes and by trading along the water-ways and they could not get a living even with the day's hard work, and not unoften, their difficulties were enhanced by the impressment resorted to on occasions of official tours, &c. Further it would press hard on the labourers and the poor section of the people who have not the wherewithal to pay tolls. Even school-boys would have to pay toll in addition to the recently enhanced school-fees. True, a similar Act obtained in British India, but the analogy, he said, would not hold in view to the fewness of ferries and water-ways there, and the immense facilities of communication afforded by the Railway, and the arrangements in force there need not necessarily be applied to this country differently conditioned as it is. If it was thought necessary that the Bill should be passed, the member suggested that the following modifications might be made:—(*a*) That canoes kept for hire should alone be brought within the purview of the Bill; (*b*) that no fees should be levied on private boats kept for the use of the owners, on the principle of the Carriages Acts in British India which apply only to carriages used for conveying passengers for hire; (*c*) that no exemption should be made in the case of public servants and that exemption should be granted to school-masters and school-boys; (*d*) that in section 19 of the Bill, the description of vessels should be by length and size, and not by ton which is not easily understood; (*e*) that provision for appeals should be made; and (*f*) that the summary procedure for recovery of ferry charges and the punishments proposed for infringement were not justifiable and should be modified.

Mr. V. Parameswaran Tampi and *Mr. M. K. Narayana Pillai* (Members, Mavelikara Taluk) supported the previous speaker.

Dewan's reply.—This Bill has passed the Select Committee stage and will come before the Legislative Council for final disposal at its next meeting. I am not in a position to hold out any hopes of giving up the Bill, but the suggestions made by the members for improving it are noted. There are several members of the Legislative Council present here and I daresay that they have heard and noted what the members have said. We shall try to make the Bill as reasonable and fair as we can.

26. Removal of unclaimed dead bodies.

Mr. M. K. Narayana Pillai (Member, Mavelikara Taluk) represented that the Police were compelling the poor to

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